

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 16652 141810Z

14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

/069 W

----- 014665

R 141643Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4212

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL TURIN UNN

AMCONSUL TRIESTE UNN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE UNN

AMCONSUL GENOA UNN

AMCONSUL PALERMO UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 16652

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND NEW
YORK TIMES STORY

1. USIS DAILY PRESS SUMMARIES (NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12) HAVE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT WITH A SUMMARY OF THE PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT ITALIAN DEVELOPMENTS TO A SESSION OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND OF THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF NOVEMBER 10 ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE TO COMMUNIST (PCI) PARTICIPATION IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES THE TONE OF THE REACTIONS.

2. IN CONTRAST TO THE GENERALLY HARSH OUTCRY ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM A CROSS SECTION OF THE ITALIAN MEDIA AT THE TIME OF AMBASSADOR VOLPE'S EPOCA INTERVIEW IN SEPTEMBER, COMMENT AT THIS JUNCTURE IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE MEASURED AND LESS EMOTIONAL. PREDICTABLY THE DEPTH OF THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 16652 141810Z

REACTIONS GROW STRONGER AS ONE MOVES LEFT ON THE POLITICAL SPEC-

TRUM.

3. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT,THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE STIMULATED SUBSTANTIALLY MORE ATTENTION THAN THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY, COVERAGE OF WHICH WAS SURPRISINGLY LIMITED IN THE PRESS THE DAY AFTER IT TOOK PLACE. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COVERAGE WAS NOT FAITHFUL TO WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID, IT WAS THAT IT EITHER DOWNPLAYED OR IGNORED HIS CAVAETS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES IN TERMS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY TO DETERMINE THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF A COUNTRY OF OVER 50 MILLION PEOPLE.

4. THE MAJOR CRITICISM OF THE LATEST ENUNCIATIONS OF AMERICAN POLICY CAME FROM THE PCI WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS OUTFLANKED BY THE

REACTION OF THE MANIFESTO GROUP (EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY) ON ITS LEFT. WHILE PCI EXPRESSED OBJECTION TO FURTHER INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CRITICIZED OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THE SOCIALISTS (PSI) WHO FAILED TO SHARE THIS POSITION, THEIR EXPOSITION OF THEIR CASE WAS MORE IN TERMS OF RESIGNATION THAN OF OUTRAGE. MANIFESTO TAKES THE PCI TO TASK FOR THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN POLITICS IMPLYING THAT THE PCI IS COMPROMISING ON POSITIONS OF PRINCIPLE IN THE HOPES OF COURTING A MEASURE O US ACCEPTANCE. HISTORY SHOULD TEACH THE PCI, MANIFESTO ARGUES, THAT THIS APPROACH IS DOOMED TO FAILURE.

5. THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT IS EQUALLY NOTICEABLE IN THE CENTER AND CENTER-LEFT PRESS, WHERE THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL CRITICISM OF THE EPOCA INTERVIEW. LA STAMPA, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH TALKED OF AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER, DREW NO CONCLUSIONS, RESTRICTING ITSELF TO PUBLISHING A FULL TEXT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY A SUMMARY OF THE PCI POSITION AS STATED IN L'UNITA. AVANTI, ORGAN OF THE PSI, DID NOT FORMALLY TAKE A POSITION UNTIL NOVEMBER 12, POSSIBLY PRODDED FINALLY BY PCI CRITICISM. ON THIS OCCASION THE PSI OBSERVED THAT WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN SAYING DOES NOT TECHNICALLY CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN AFFAIRS, A SUBTLE MODIFICATION OF THE LINE THEY TOOK IN SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER, THE SOCIALISTS SUGGEST THAT FULLY INDEPENDENT ITALY WOULD PROBABLY GIVE THE SECRETARY LESS GROUNDS FOR CONCERN.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 16652 141810Z

6. AS BEFORE THE CENTER-RIGHT PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE LATEST AMERICAN MOVES TO REITERATE USG OPPOSITION TO PCI ENTRY INTO AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

7. FINALLY, IN VIEW OF HIS RECENT STAY IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS WORTH NOTING THE PERSONAL REACTION OF SERGIO SEGRE, PCI FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF, TO THESE REITERATIONS OF POLICY TOWARDS THE PCI. ALTHOUGH HIS COMMENTS HAD A HINT OF REGRET THAT THE US

FELT A NEED TO AGAIN NOTE ITS OPPOSITION TO PCI ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT, SEGRE TOOK THE LINE THAT THE KISSINGER COMMENTS WERE DIRECTED MORE TOWARDS THE DC THAN TOWARDS THE PCI. SEGRE CONCLUDED THAT THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE REFLECTED SUPPORT FOR THE ZACCAGNINI LINE IN THE PARTY IN THAT THE AMERICANS ARE CALLING FOR AN END OF THE OLD STYLE DC LEADERSHIP. SOME SECTIONS OF THE ITALIAN PRESS WERE QUICK TO NOTE THAT SEGRE'S COMMENTS WERE CONSIDERABLY SOFTER, AND INDEED AT VARIANCE WITH THE LINE TAKEN BY THE PCI DAILY L'UNITA.

8. COPIES OF THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY AS TRANSMITTED BY DEPARTMENT WERE CIRCULATED TO A NUMBER OF DEC CONTACTS WHO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND APPROVAL FOR SECRETARY'S REMARKS.BEAUDRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME16652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750398-0386
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751141/aaaabkov.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND NEW YORK TIMES STORY
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006